



QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE: Cross-Connection Control Program

Backflow Assembly Tester Responsibilities

- California Water Service (Cal Water) ordinance (CPUC Rule No. 16) requires tester certification from CA-NV American Water Works Association or American Backflow Protection Association.
- Certification renewals must be submitted **prior to** the expiration date.
 - Submit all certification and test kit calibration information to backflow@calwater.com. Please cc your local Cross-Connection Control (CCC) Specialist or district contact.
 - Test kit calibration reports must certify the accuracy to within ± 0.2 psid descending and list specific calibration results.
- Testers should **not** use backflow@calwater.com for information requests, blank test reports, or questions about the Cross-Connection Control Program.
 - For information and general requests, contact your local CCC Specialist.
- Any tester who would like to be on the approved tester list must attend a mandatory annual tester meeting held by Cal Water.
 - Visit calwater.com for dates and locations.

Customer Relations

- Cal Water does not endorse specific testers or companies.
- Testers should defer questions about program requirements from the customer to the local CCC Specialist. Examples:
 - Q: “Why do I need a backflow prevention assembly?”
 - Q: “Can we move it closer to the house?”
- Please contact your local CCC Specialist or district contact regarding service and repair questions.

Test Reports

- Cal Water provides customers with a pre-printed test report with a barcode.
 - Contact your local CCC Specialist or district contact for specific test reports.
 - You may use a blank report, available online, as a last resort. Incorrectly completed forms will be returned.
- All information must be entered at the time of the test, or a copy of field notes must be attached.
- Testers should submit the completed original, legible copy or PDF promptly to the local CCC Specialist.
 - **Do not** send test reports to backflow@calwater.com.
 - **Do not** fax the report; faxed copies cannot be accepted.
- All of the information on the test report must be completed.
 - Write legibly and do not mark through the service address without confirming with your local CCC Specialist.
 - Verify all information prior to checking required boxes.
 - Write the time of test clearly in a.m./p.m. or military format.
 - Include meter and line pressure readings.
 - If information cannot be acquired, please **explain why**.
- Incorrect/unacceptable test reports will be emailed back to the tester for correction.
 - Please correct test report errors within five business days after notification.

DISCLAIMER: California Water Service's approved Rule No. 16 should be referred to as the authoritative document outlining all responsibilities, requirements, and restrictions for all parties involved. The provided summary is to serve as a reference to the aforementioned document and is not to supplement, replace, or alter any stipulations therein. www.calwater.com/docs/rates/rules/rule_16.pdf



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Cross-Connection Control Program

Lead-Free Requirements

- The Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act requires that backflow prevention assemblies used for potable purposes be lead-free.
 - Assemblies exclusively used for non-potable industrial or manufacturing processes are exempt.
- **ALL** repair parts must be lead-free.
- Some lead-free parts can be used to repair a leaded assembly **if the body is still in good condition**.
- Resources for repairing low-lead assemblies with lead-free parts can be found at www.usc.edu/dept/fccchr/leadfree.html.

Repairing Assemblies

- Testers should notify their local CCC Specialist or district contact if they can't repair or replace a failed assembly within **three days**.
- Testers should use only original equipment manufacturer (OEM) parts and repair procedures.
 - **Do not** flip rubber disks or use parts from other assemblies.

Replacing Assemblies

- An RP should be replaced with an RP; **never decrease the level of protection**.
- If replacing a DC, testers should call their local CCC Specialist or district contact to confirm that this is the appropriate level of protection.
- Failed PVBs at the service should be replaced with RPs, not repaired.
 - Median strips are the **only** exception.
- Dedicated irrigation services are allowed leaded assemblies.
 - Verify the type of service with your local CCC Specialist before using any leaded assembly.

Installing New Assemblies

- Cal Water standards and specifications are provided to customers.
 - Cal Water uses the University of Southern California's list of approved assemblies.
- Testers should contact their local CCC Specialist or district contact for a copy of the list; it can also be found at www.usc.edu/dept/fccchr/list.html.
- Assemblies should be installed as close to the meter as practical.
 - You must obtain local CCC Specialist or district management approval if the installation is not at the meter.
- Testers should call the local CCC Specialist or district contact to conduct a final inspection **BEFORE** backfilling the trench.